ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

SCREAM

MARVEL

1

BUNN
SANDOVAL
NAVA
ARCINIEGA

YEARS AGO, THE LIFE FOUNDATION–A DANGEROUS CONGLOMERATE THAT, FOR A TIME, FOCUSED ITS EFFORTS ON DESTROYING SPIDER-MAN–CAPTURED THE VENOM SYMBIOTE AND FORCED IT TO SPAWN FIVE OFFSPRING: SCREAM, LASHER, RIOT, AGONY AND PHAGE.

DONNA DIEGO WAS THE ORIGINAL HOST TO THE SCREAM SYMBIOTE BEFORE HER MURDER AT THE HANDS OF EDDIE BROCK. SINCE HER DEATH, THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE SCREAM SYMBIOTE HAVE REMAINED UNKNOWN...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

SCREAM

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IT'S LITTLE MORE THAN A WHISPER.

MUFFLED BY THE MUD.

DROWNED OUT BY THE RAIN.

BUT I CAN STILL HEAR IT.

EVEN HERE, IN THIS SHALLOW GRAVE.

HERE, WHERE I WAS SO UNCEREMONIOUSLY ABANDONED.

CALLING.

BECKONING.

SUMMONING.

IT PROMISES SUCH SWEETNESS.

I AM NOT FORGOTTEN, IT TELLS ME.

I AM NOT DEAD.

A HISS.

LITTLE MORE THAN A WHISPER.

BUT I ANSWER...

...WITH A SCREAM!

IT BROUGHT ME BACK...

...BROUGHT ME CRAWLING THROUGH THE COLD AND THE DARK...

...FOLLOWING...

...A SPIRAL PATH...

...FROM THE DEPTHS...

...FROM THE GRAVE...

...INTO THE WORLD ONCE MORE...

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...AND TOWARD A GREATER PURPOSE.

...A WAVE OF VICIOUS ATTACKS SWEEPING ACROSS THE CITY...

...AUTHORITIES ARE URGING CITIZENS TO STAY INSIDE WITH DOORS LOCKED...

K-KEEP MOVING!

DON'T STOP!

AND DON'T LOOK BACK!

HSSSSSSSSSSS

KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED!

WHATEVER YOU DO--

--DON'T LOOK!

HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

I'M SCARED, MOMMY.

I KNOW, BABY.

I AM TOO.

SKREEEEEEEE--

THP THP SLP THP

NO.

NO!

THROK

YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM.

YOU...

TH-THANK YOU.

YOU SAVED ME.

YOU SAVED MY CHIL--

YOU'RE--

HSSSSSS

MINE!

NO!!!

YEAAARGH

MORE.

HSSSSSSSSS

A WORM CRAWLS THROUGH DIRT.

LEAVES CASTINGS BEHIND.

CASTINGS ENRICH THE SOIL.

STILL, IT CALLS.

CALLS TO WHAT WAS LEFT BEHIND.

AFTER SO LONG IN THE DIRT.

SCHLUHK

SO LONG DOWN THERE AMONG THE BONES.

IT CALLS.

WE THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD.

AND--IN A WAY-- WE WERE RIGHT.

WE?

THERE'S ONLY ME.

WHOSE THOUGHTS ARE THESE?

WHO IS CRYING OUT TO ME FROM THE DARK?

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STREETS ARE QUIET NOW.

NOT TWO MINUTES AGO, I HEARD SCREAMS.

SCREAMS... AND THEN NOTHING.

I'M ALL TOO FAMILIAR.

ONCE UPON A TIME, WE...

...I...

...WAS VENOM.

BONDED TO A CLONE OF THE SYMBIOTE THAT I CAME ACROSS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.*

NOW I'M JUST *PATRICIA ROBERTSON.*

CARNAGE IS BACK IN NEW YORK.

BUT THE CITY IS DEATHLY QUIET.

IT WAS TERRIFYING AND FREIGHT-TRAIN LOUD AND FRANTIC.

*IN *VENOM #1*, WAY BACK FROM 2003, TRUE BELIEVERS! -EDITOR

UNTIL IT'S NOT

REEAARGH!

I WAS ONLY VENOM FOR A SHORT TIME

BUT LONG ENOUGH.

LONG ENOUGH TO DO SOME DAMAGE

LONG ENOUGH TO EARN SOME DEBT

LONG ENOUGH TO MISS U

BEEN LYING LOW FOR A WHILE NOW

MAYBE TOO LONG

BUT IT'S TIME TO SET THINGS RIGHT

EVEN IF IT KILLS ME

MORE!

SOMETHING IS GOING DOWN IN THE CITY

SOMETHING RELATED TO SYMBIOTES

OOH

AND I'M DONE HIDING

HSSSSSSK!

DONE WAITING FOR THE NIGHTMARES TO WORK THEMSELVES OUT OF MY HEAD

DONE PREPPING AND PLANNING AND TRAINING.

BRAKKA-BOOM!!

SK-RE-EEAAK!!

BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA

DONE WITH CUSTOMIZING GEAR I'M NEVER GONNA USE

DONE STEELING MY NERVES

AAGH!

SLLLSH

DONE WITH HESITATION.

BOOM

DONE WITH FEAR

BLAM

JUST DONE

HAVEN'T TESTED THE ORDNANCE

DIDN'T HAVE A SYMBIOTE AS A TEST SUBJECT

COULD'VE GONE THROUGH DOZENS OF LIVE-FIRE DRILLS THOUGH, AND STILL NOT BEEN READY

NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT

UNKNOWN

SONIC ROUNDS

GOT THE IDEA FROM THE FOURTH OF JULY

WHEN WE WERE KIDS, MY BROTHER USED TO BUY WHISTLING BOTTLE ROCKETS

SCREAMERS. THEY WERE CALLED

THE SPIRAL. THE FACT THAT THIS SYMBIOTE IS BONDED TO A CORPSE

THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE

AS THE ROUND RIPS THROUGH THE SYMBIOTE I REALIZE—

WAIT—IS SHE—

NO!

NOT AGAIN

I AM NOT GOING TO LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN!

I AM—

SCREAM

I HAD FORGOTTEN HOW IT FEELS

THE SURGE OF POWER

THE STRANGE SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS... LIKE I DON'T HAVE TO GO IT ALONE AFTER ALL

THOUGHTS BUT NOT MY OWN

A VOICE IN MY HEAD

A FRIEND.

A FRIEND?

HER NAME--

MY NAME!

--HAD BEEN DONNA DIEGO.

DON'T YOU TALK ABOUT ME LIKE I DON'T EXIST!

...SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT...

...TOO MUCH...

...SO MANY VOICES...

...COMING IN ALL AT ONCE...

AND ONE...

SO MUCH *LOUDER* THAN THE REST.

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IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE.

OR RESIST.

NNNNN--

GOD IS COMING

GOD IS COMING

SLLLSH

AAGGHH!

NOOOOO!

GET AWAY!

GET OFF!

GET OFF... PLEASE.

THIS IS WHAT DONNA...

...WHAT I...

...WHAT WE...

...WANTED.

PURPOSE.

AND NOW WE HAVE FOUND IT.

I SAID--

--OFF!

NOW, WE HEAR ONLY ONE VOICE.

THE VOICE OF GOD.

SURELY ONLY GOD COULD RAISE US FROM THE GRAVE.

SURELY ONLY GOD COULD TAKE SOMETHING THAT WAS CAST SO CARELESSLY ASIDE...

...AND GIVE US UTILITY ONCE MORE.

WE HEAR.

AND GOD WANTS US--

--TO HUNT!

PREY SCURRIES THROUGH THE STREETS.

CHASED OUT OF HIDING.

SHE'S IMPORTANT.

THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

TO MAKE SURE SHE GIVES GOD HIS DUE.

TO MAKE SURE SHE DIES LIKE A GOOD--

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'RE CHASING, DO YOU?

YOUR BOY CARNAGE MARKED ME FOR DEATH.

BUT HE NEVER BOTHERED TO TELL YOU...

...THAT I'M ALREADY MARKED...

...BY SOMETHING A LOT WORSE THAN DEATH...

...AND IF YOU COME LOOKING FOR TROUBLE...

...SHE'LL DAMN SURE DOG-WALK YOU UP AND DOWN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK!

ANDI BENTON.

THE HOST-FLESH KNOWS ABOUT HER.

THE HOST-FLESH HAS RESEARCHED HER.

DON'T SWEAT IT.

I'LL MAKE IT QUICK.

THE HOST-FLESH KNOWS ANDI BENTON WAS ONCE A HOST HERSELF.

THE HOST-FLESH WOULD NEVER ADMIT IT...

...BUT THE HOST-FLESH IS *JEALOUS.*

FWOOOOOOSH

ANDI BENTON TOOK SOMETHING FROM THE HOST-FLESH...

...AND THEN LOST IT.

SKREEEEEEEEEE

THE HOST-FLESH WOULD NEVER ADMIT SHE HATED ANDI BENTON.

THAT REALIZATION IS *GOD'S GIFT.*

ANDI BENTON'S LIFE...

...IS *OURS* TO TAKE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

CLETUS' CLUBHOUSE

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SEND EMAILS TO **SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM** (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!)

AT LAST!

After over a year of planning, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE has fallen upon the Marvel Universe!

If this is your first VENOM book in a while, or your first one ever, WELCOME! We hope you survive the experience.

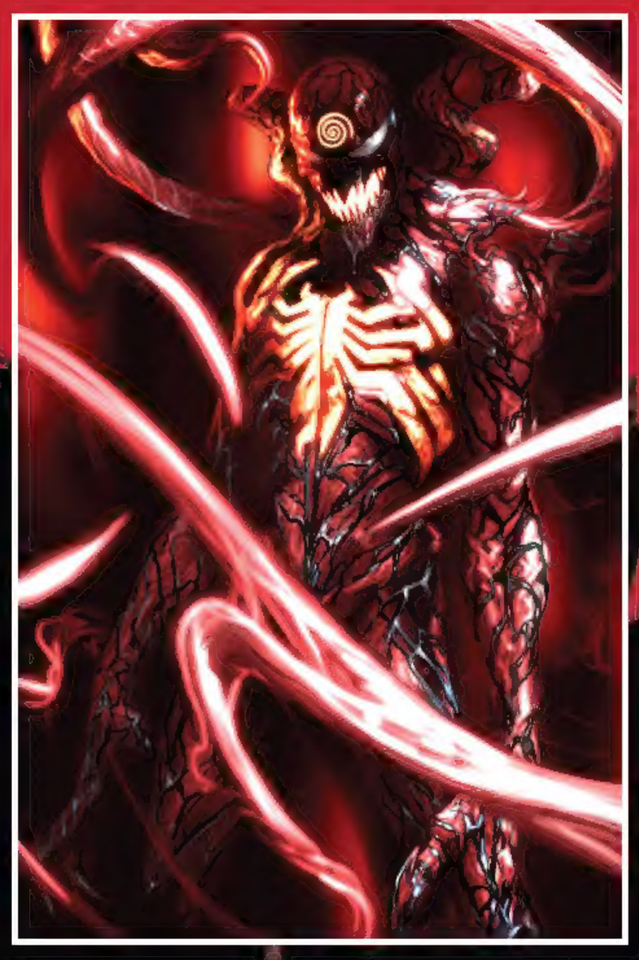
As I write this, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 has only been at the printer for about 48 hours, so we don't have any fan letters from you Venomaniacs out there in Mighty Marveldom just yet...

BUT YOU CAN FIX THAT RIGHT NOW! How?! By writing a letter about this very comic book to us at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM--be sure to mark it "OKAY TO PRINT" and you may just see it in this very column in another issue of ABSOLTUE CARNAGE!

ITEM: No event is complete without an awesome assortment of variant covers, so we wanted to take this opportunity to explain some of the epic variant programs your pals here at the House of Ideas have been working on--and give a shout-out to all of the incredibly talented artists who have contributed to the first wave of variants in the process!

CODEX VARIANTS: These covers showcase characters who have worn Venom or one of its offspring and have codices in their DNA! On this issue, we were fortunate enough to be joined by comics legend Mike Allred, channeling his inner Edvard Munch for this one!

CULT OF CARNAGE VARIANTS: These covers showcase the super villains who have been working with Carnage for the last several months! And who better to kick the program off than the maniacal maestro himself, Cletus Kasady?! Gabriele Dell'Otto joined us for this piece--featured on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1--and I dunno about you guys, but as far as I'm concerned, he created straight-up nightmare fuel here.



shiver

YOUNG GUNS: AH! One of the coolest programs I've ever gotten to work on. The Young Guns are the next generation of industry-defining artists, and each one of them did a variant for the event featuring a redesign of a major Marvel character, based on the part they play in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE.

First we have this STUNNING Demogoblin redesign from Aaron Kuder that was also featured on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1:

But when last we saw Demogoblin, it seemed to take a male form. How is it back, and why the change in how it manifests? Are these designs simple fantasy, or will they find their way to the Marvel Universe in the pages of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE? There's only one way to find out, True Believers: KEEP READING!

CONNECTING VARIANTS: Lastly, but certainly by no means least, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE and its tie-in miniseries will each be getting interlocking covers.

The fifth and final Life Foundation symbiote, Scream has always been one of my favorite Marvel characters, and it's been a treat to watch the character return to prominence as a part of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE! The connecting covers on this miniseries were illustrated by none other than Mark Bagley, and I dunno about you, but they're some of my favorite covers EVER!

One final note on variant covers before we dip to get this issue to the printer.

If you want one of the covers listed here--or any other cover that's a part of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE--and your comic shop doesn't have it, TELL YOUR COMIC SHOP ABOUT THAT SPECIFIC COVER! There should be someone from your shop in touch with someone here at the House of Ideas who'll be able to scare one up. It's never guaranteed, but your local shop should always be your first stop if you're hunting a specific cover down.

And while you're at it, tell them you want the best, and this month the best is CARNAGE! 'Cause this summer…

CARNAGE RULES!

#carnagerules

And don't miss ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1, one of the best minis I've ever worked on EVER, and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1 and ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1--both on sale next week!

Stay sharp!

Devin

@edevinlewis

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE CHECKLIST

AUGUST

X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1
X ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1
VENOM #17

SEPTEMBER

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE:
GHOST RIDER - SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1
VENOM #18
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

OCTOBER

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK #1
VENOM #19
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31

NOVEMBER

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5
VENOM #20